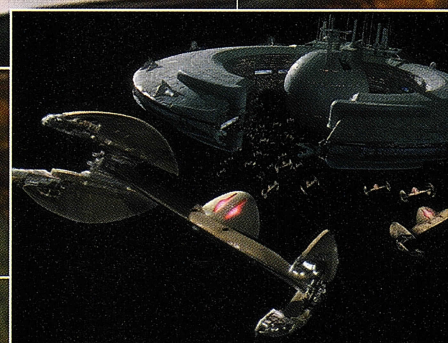


# THE OFFICIAL STAR WARS FACT FILE 48

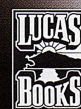
INSIDE:  
POGGLE THE  
LESSER



JEDI INVESTIGATIONS  
OBI-WAN KENOBI



DETAILED FOLD-OUT PLANS  
DROID STARFIGHTER





## BATTLES & EVENTS

### YUUZHAN VONG INCURSIONS

YUU 1-4

The alien invaders who struck fear into the galaxy.

## CHARACTERS

### POGGLE THE LESSER

POG 1-2

The Geonosian Archduke who managed to unify his people.

### WEDGE ANTILLES

ANT 1-2

The early years of this legendary pilot and hero of the Rebellion.

### OBI-WAN KENOBI

KEN 13-16

How Obi-Wan came upon evidence of the creation of a clone army.

### BOUNTY HUNTERS - 4-LOM

BOU 9-10

The renegade droid that became one of the galaxy's top bounty hunters.

## PLANETS & LOCATIONS

### TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY CANTINA

TAT 25-26

The infamous cantina that plays host to hordes of the galaxy's drifters.

### TATOOINE - MOS ESPA WAY

TAT 33-34

The Tatooine street that was home to the region's traders and hustlers.

## DROIDS

### E522 ASSASSIN DROID

ASS 7-8

The killer droid that incurred the wrath of Jabba the Hutt.

## WEAPONS & TECHNOLOGY

### QUI-GON'S LIGHTSABRE

LIG 7-8

The Jedi weapon used by Obi-Wan's Master.

## VEHICLES

### TRADE FEDERATION DROID STARFIGHTER

TRA 1-2

The fully automated starfighter capable of ground, air and space combat.

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## BLASTING ITS WAY INTO ISSUE 49...

### THE SEARCH FOR AMIDALA'S ASSASSIN

Obi-Wan and Anakin's attempts to capture and interrogate Zam Wesell.

### CLAWDITES

The changeling species to which Amidala's would-be assassin Zam Wesell belonged.

### JABBA THE HUTT

How the larger-than-life crime lord fell victim to his own vanity.

### NABOO - LODGE

The remote hideaway used by Anakin and Amidala after the attempts on her life.



### LIN DEMOLITIONMECH

The dome-shaped mine-laying droid that was recalled after a fluke tragedy.

### THE GALAXY GUN

The last in the long line of Emperor Palpatine's terrifying superweapons.

### OWEN LARS' SPEEDER BIKE

The speeder borrowed by Anakin in his search for his mother.





"WE DROVE OFF THE FAR OUTSIDERS. PERHAPS VERGERE DID SOME CONVINCING OF HER OWN, I DO NOT KNOW"

27 ABY YUU 1

# THE ABYSS BECKONS

AFTER THE FALL OF THE EMPIRE, IN A TIME OF RELATIVE PEACE AND STABILITY, A NEW AND UNPRECEDENTED ALIEN THREAT EMERGED TO PLUNGE THE GALAXY INTO TURMOIL ONCE AGAIN

IN the closing decades of the Old Republic, at the very edge of known space, the people of a planet called Zonama Sekot had developed a unique form of biotechnology with which they grew incredible living spacecraft. Hearing of this, a scouting party of mysterious aliens contacted the inhabitants of Zonama Sekot.

Initially, the creatures simply seemed curious. That inquisitiveness soon turned to aggression, however. Attacks on the planet were repulsed, but the invaders simply gathered themselves to strike again. Before they did so, the Jedi Council despatched an ambassador named Vergere to investigate the reported alien contact and also the ship builders of Zonama Sekot.

## A BRIEF RESPITE

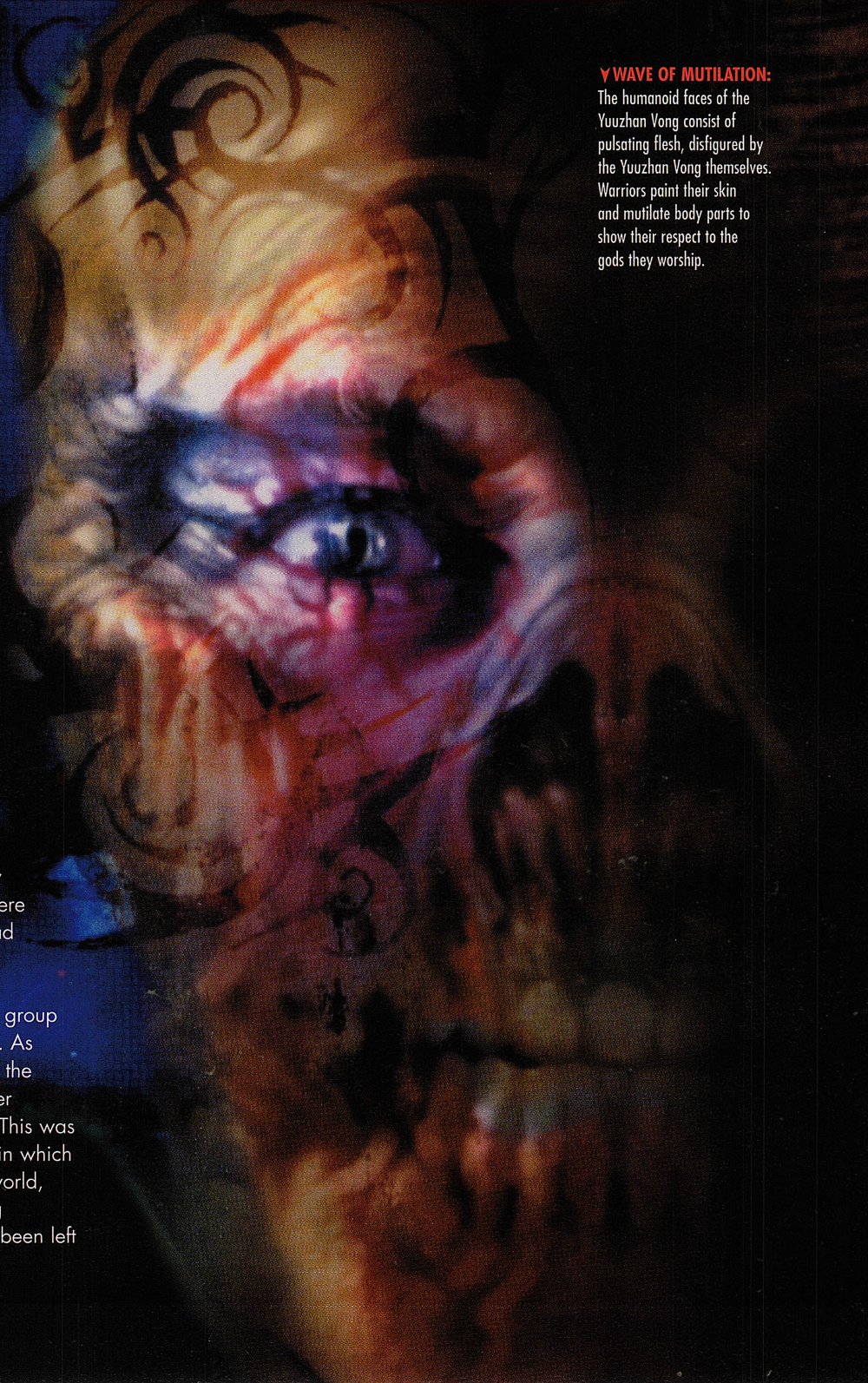
Vergere walked right into the middle of a highly volatile situation. True to her Jedi training, she immediately opened negotiations with the aliens. They appeared to have come from beyond the galaxy, and were as fascinated by Vergere as she was by them. The Jedi Knight negotiated a settlement – the aliens would leave, but she would go with them.

The aliens, true to their word, eventually went, but within 70 standard years they were back. The Yuuzhan Vong scouting party had seen the wonders the galaxy offered and made plans to speed their return.

It was discovered that the leader of that group was a Yuuzhan Vong named Mongei Shai. As the others left to return to the main force of the wandering Yuuzhan Vong, their commander remained on the distant world of Bimmiel. This was the last inhabitable planet before the void in which Shai's people travelled. From this remote world, Mongei Shai gathered data for the coming invasion. The broadcasting system he had been left

## Y WAVE OF MUTILATION:

The humanoid faces of the Yuuzhan Vong consist of pulsating flesh, disfigured by the Yuuzhan Vong themselves. Warriors paint their skin and mutilate body parts to show their respect to the gods they worship.





YUU2 27 ABY

**EARLY INCURSIONS:** The Yuuzhan Vong's first port of call in the galaxy was the planet of Zonama Sekot in the Gardaji Rift. In the fading years of the Old Republic, the aliens had learned of incredible organic spacecraft being developed on the planet and came to investigate. Their initial curiosity, however, soon turned to aggression.

with acted as a marker buoy for the approaching convoy. Shai, who eventually died on Bimmiel, was honoured for his sacrifice, his dusty bones being later collected by the invaders as a mark of respect.

In the intervening years between the first tentative steps of the Yuuzhan Vong into the galaxy and the full-blown invasion, a Republic was toppled and an Empire rose in its place, only to crumble and shrink to almost nothing. The New Republic that emerged from the ashes of years of conflict was a mere fledgling. For 20 years after the death of Palpatine, architect of the demise of the Old Republic, the New Republic struggled against enemies from without and within.

### IMPERIAL RETREAT

The Empire had retreated to the point at which a treaty was drawn up that allowed an area of space to declare itself the Imperial Remnant – the vessel that held the smoky shadows of another time. Denied an enemy of any significance on which to focus its energy, the New Republic fell upon itself.

History has taught that the vacuum left by the passing of an Empire is often filled by the re-ignition of ancient conflicts and prejudices that have been simmering under the heavy hand of oppression for years. The political rivalries that, years previously, had nearly shattered the New Republic during the Yevethan incident had not gone away. As the Yuuzhan Vong convoy neared the galaxy, the New Republic government was rent with power struggles and mistrust. History, with its previously revered institutions and individuals, counted for nothing, and the lessons it might have taught went unheeded – to a very great cost.

**A PEACEMAKER:** As news of the heightening conflict between the inhabitants of Zonama Sekot and the Yuuzhan Vong reached the Republic, the Jedi Knight Vergere was sent to negotiate a settlement. This she did, but only on the condition that when the aliens left, she would go with them.





'YOU LIKE SEE GALAXY DIE? THAT MADE LONG AGO, FOR YOU SEE US ENTER, WORLDSHIP, THE BEGIN OF END'

27 ABY YUUG

# FIRST TO FALL

**BELKADAN, A PLANET THAT ONLY FEW HAD EVER HEARD OF, WAS THE FIRST WORLD TO FEEL THE DEATHLY TOUCH OF THE YUUZHAN VONG**

**T**HE primeval jungle world of Belkadan lay at the very edge of the known galaxy, in the Dalbonbian sector – the outer edge of the Outer Rim. For that same reason, it became a base and a target for two very different select groups.

The ExGal Society designated their base on the planet ExGal-4. The society was devoted to the discovery of, and contact with, life beyond the known galaxy. ExGal-4 had been established three years prior to the termination of their unfortunately successful mission. As with all other similar institutions, ExGal was critically underfunded and manned by dreamers whose ideals had all-but folded under the pressures of tedious reality.

## MAKING CONTACT

ExGal-4 was commanded by a human female named Danni Quee. She was tough, independent and possessed of a sharp intelligence that was suspicious of any form of formal government. Unlike the other 14 members of her team, she had been on Belkadan since the society was founded, and had helped carve its complex from the jungle. The staff of ExGal-4 watched and listened for any contact with life from other galaxies, unaware that one of their number was, himself, extragalactic.

Yomin Carr looked human, thanks to his bio-engineered Yuuzhan Vong ooglit masquer. And despite an accent and speech pattern that his temporary colleagues dismissed as regional, he sounded human, too, thanks to the tizowym that had burrowed into his ear canal. Yomin Carr, an honoured Yuuzhan Vong warrior chosen for the advance-scouting mission, also watched the skies, monitoring the Vector Prime of the invasion fleet. After many long years, his diligence was rewarded.

Appropriately, it was Yomin Carr who detected the approach of the Yuuzhan Vong worldship. On making contact with his Master, the Yuuzhan Vong



**▲ EXTRAGALACTIC ACTIVITY:** The first human to acknowledge the arrival of the Yuuzhan Vong was Danni Quee – leader of a small group of enthusiasts, the ExGal Society, that had gathered on the planet Belkadan to seek out just such extragalactic contact.



warrior was given orders to silence ExGal-4.

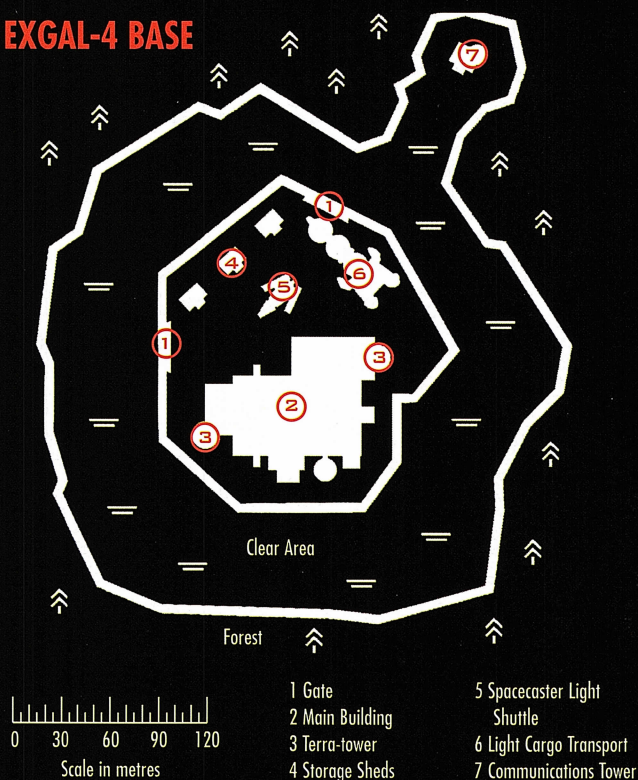
Disabling the communications tower, Carr returned to his station to discover his despised colleagues in a frenzy of excitement. They, too, had discovered the approaching extragalactic contact. Yomin argued that they deserved the credit for the discovery, and that shouting about it too early might rob them of their place in history, so the ExGal-4 team decided to study the object that had achieved the seemingly impossible task of entering the galaxy from the presumably impassable chaos beyond.

### A GUIDING HAND

The object that so excited their attentions appeared to be a massive asteroid. Curiously, it was moving faster than it should and was headed for the Helska system – specifically the small ice ball that was the fourth planet. Unknown to the others on Belkadan, Yomin Carr had placed villip beacons to guide the worldship to the planet.

When ExGal-4's team tried to call home to report their findings, they found that they could not. After the 'asteroid' they were tracking seemed inexplicably to land on Helska IV, Danni Quee decided to take a ship to the ice planet and contact the main ExGal command base on the way.

### EXGAL-4 BASE



**Y = DEADLY WARRIORS:** The Yuuzhan Vong were a highly aggressive species that viewed violence as a necessary first course of action in any confrontation. Arriving on Belkadan, they quickly disposed of the crew of ExGal-4, leaving only its leader, Danni Quee, alive.

Carr ensured that the spacecraft would remain mute. The small crew left, flying into a trap, while the Yuuzhan Vong warrior casually disposed of the remaining members of ExGal-4. Only

Danni Quee was deemed worthy by Carr. She was soon captured by the Yuuzhan Vong on Helska IV and imprisoned in their worldship. Her companions, however, were all butchered.

Belkadan – already being transformed by biotechnology brought by Carr into a world more suited to the invaders – was soon rendered inhospitable to anyone other than the Yuuzhan Vong. The invaders' worldship on Helska IV was now safely ensconced beneath the frigid planetoid's frozen crust. Most significantly of all, Yomin Carr was not the only disguised advance scout for the Yuuzhan Vong.



"LET THE EXECUTIONS BEGIN!"

22 BBY POG 1



# ARCHDUKE POGGLE THE LESSER

**RISING FROM THE FACELESS RANKS OF THE GEONOSIAN LOWER CASTES, POGGLE THE LESSER ALTERED THE VERY FABRIC OF HIS SOCIETY FOR HIS OWN SELFISH AND PARANOID AIMS**

**O**N many worlds, the rise of the oppressed to a position of power can lead to new ages of enlightenment and peace. When the Geonosian Lesser caste-member Poggie set his sights on becoming Archduke of his hive and his world, he was not out to improve the lot of the lower castes. He wanted power and he wanted revenge.

The Lessers of Geonosis were considered mindless drones by the aristocracy they served. Poggie, a winged Lesser, was not content with this arrangement. He focused all his energies on attaining the position of Archduke of the Stalgasin Hive into which he was born, occupied at that time by Haddiss the Vaulted.

## A NATURAL LEADER

Poggie was a leader in the true Geonosian mould, caring nothing for those who served under him. He gathered followers among the ranks of the Lessers, attacking Haddiss's more valued installations and individuals. Haddiss responded by rounding up any and all

suspected dissidents and troublemakers. The arenas of Stalgasin Hive were kept busy, and its creatures well fed.

With increasing numbers of desperate Lessers flocking to his 'cause', Poggie found he had a backer. Darth Sidious covertly funded the rebellion on Geonosis. On the Eve of Meckgin, Poggie threw his forces into one mighty assault. The High Audience Chamber of Stalgasin Hive proved to be no safe refuge for Haddiss the Vaulted. Poggie rode in through the blasted doors on the shoulders of an immense acklay.

The cowering Haddiss was bitten into three pieces before the horrified aristocrats. So began the reign of Poggie the Lesser and, for a while,

## CHARACTER DATA

<b>SPECIES:</b>	GEONOSIAN
<b>HEIGHT:</b>	1.83 METRES
<b>HOMEWORLD:</b>	GEONOSIS
<b>AFFILIATION:</b>	SEPARATIST







**> LET THE EXECUTIONS BEGIN!** As the reigning Archduke of Geonosis, Poggle the Lesser had done much to bring stability and prosperity to its people, largely through his dealings with Count Dooku and the separatists. He was not about to let Anakin, Obi-Wan and Padmé destroy all he had built, and so sentenced them to death in the Geonosian execution arena.

the arenas of Stalgasin Hive remained as busy as when Haddiss had been struggling to maintain order.

Once he had taken over Stalgasin Hive, Archduke Poggle the Lesser set his mind to making sure his was the pre-eminent hive on Geonosis.

In his quest for power and prestige, Poggle the Lesser was fully supported by the agents of Darth Sidious.

By way of promises and bribes, threats and outright violence, Poggle drew together the other nine prime hives of Geonosis. Through his negotiations with off-worlders such as the Trade Federation, the Intergalactic Banking Clan and the Techno Union, Poggle brought unparalleled numbers of contracts of dizzying scale to the droid foundries and manufacturing centres of his world.

## POWER AND GREED

There was nothing altruistic in any of Poggle's plans for his world. He ensured that the Stalgasin Hive was the centre of all activities, and he thrived. His power was absolute. Poggle's belief in his own infallibility was further reinforced when Count Dooku proposed that Stalgasin Hive be the meeting place for the historic signing of a treaty creating a Confederacy of Independent Systems, changing the course of galactic history forever.

Privy to more of Dooku's plans than most others, including those given him by Dooku for a staggeringly immense superweapon, Poggle became over-

**AA SINISTER PACT:** While others were wary of offering large contracts to the Geonosians, mainly due to their reputation for in-fighting, Count Dooku knew that his contract would secure Poggle the Lesser's position as the most powerful politician on the planet and ensure that his own separatist movement had all the resources of the Geonosians at its disposal.

confident. When Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, along with Senator Amidala of Naboo, were captured attempting to infiltrate the hive, Poggle ordered them executed. He shrugged off warnings and criticisms over this rash action, confident that the weapons made by the Stalgasin Hive could deal with any eventuality.

As the Clone Wars erupted on his world, the first of many battlefields, Archduke Poggle the Lesser fought to understand what had gone wrong as hard as he fought for his very survival.





LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT THING!

O ABY ANT 1

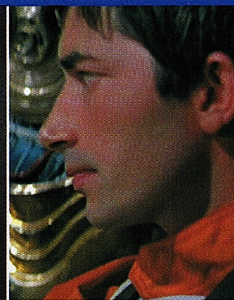


# WEDGE ANTILLES

BORN AND RAISED WHEN THE EMPIRE WAS AT ITS HEIGHT,  
WEDGE ANTILLES' BECAME ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS  
FIGHTER JOCKS IN THE GALAXY, DESPITE A CHILDHOOD  
THAT WAS NOT SHORT ON TRAGEDY OR DISAPPOINTMENT

## > SURVIVOR:

Wedge Antilles' first major battle was with the mighty Death Star. Against all the odds, he survived.



WHEN he wasn't at school, Wedge Antilles' spent his early years in Gus Treta – a spaceport and fuelling depot on the edge of the Corellian System. The depot was owned by his parents, Jagged and Zena, and provided plenty of small spacecraft for the young Wedge to fly and tinker with.

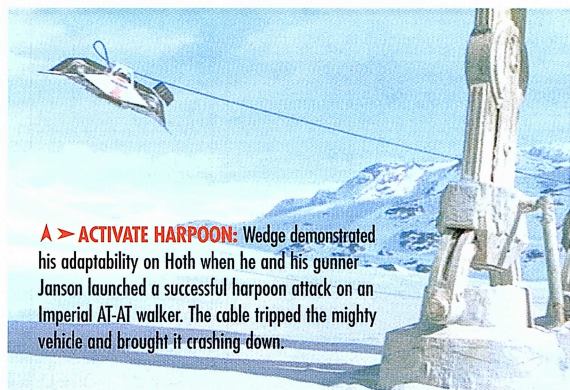
Overall, Wedge's early childhood was a happy one, the only major domestic drama taking place when his elder sister – Syal Antilles – ran away from home to become an actress, and later a holostar. However, Wedge's contentment was to be brought to a tragic end. One day, when he was 16, a group of space pirates came to his parent's depot to refuel and then flew off without disconnecting any fuel lines. The resulting explosion destroyed the entire depot and killed Wedge's parents.

## CHARACTER DATA

SPECIES:	HUMAN
HEIGHT:	1.7 METRES
HOMEWORLD:	CORELLIA
AFFILIATION:	REBEL ALLIANCE
VEHICLE:	X-WING
WEAPON:	BLASTER







**A > ACTIVATE HARPOON:** Wedge demonstrated his adaptability on Hoth when he and his gunner Janson launched a successful harpoon attack on an Imperial AT-AT walker. The cable tripped the mighty vehicle and brought it crashing down.

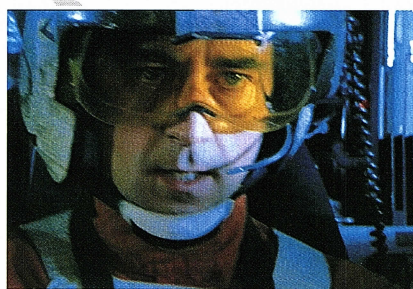
Wedge himself was away at school, but the death of his parents brought his world tumbling around him. Over the following weeks his distress gradually turned to anger as Corellian security, or CorSec, failed to bring the pirates to book. With the help of a family friend, a smuggler called Booster Terrik, Wedge hunted them down and brought their nefarious activities to an end.

## REBEL CALL

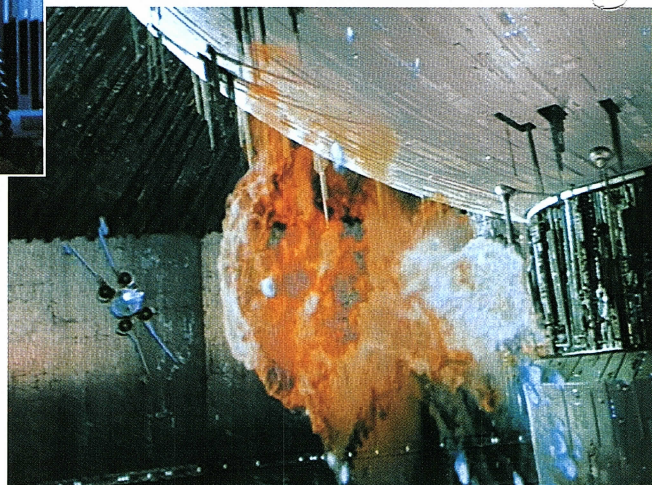
CorSec actually provided Wedge with a reward for these efforts. Combined with the insurance payment that he received for the fuel depot's destruction, this enabled him to purchase a stock light freighter and to attempt to set up a legal, above-board shipping business.

Unfortunately, smuggling had become so firmly established in Corellian space that Wedge's company was unable to compete. In desperation, he took to running guns for the then fledgling Rebel Alliance and gradually became more and more attracted to it and its goals. Before he knew what was happening, he had signed up and become one of their fighter pilots.

Although he had little experience of flying one-man snubfighters, Wedge took to these craft quickly. His first few missions consisted of attacks against Imperial convoys, which provided a good introduction to space combat but were no preparation for the forthcoming battle against the Death Star. Nevertheless, after Luke Skywalker, Wedge was the only other member of Red Squadron to survive the attack against that Imperial behemoth.



**< Y THERE IT IS:** Flying an X-wing, Wedge escorted General Lando Calrissian in the *Millennium Falcon* on a daring raid into the heart of the second Death Star. They started a chain reaction that obliterated the battle station.



## BIRTH OF A ROGUE

Over the next few months, under the guidance of Commander Narra, Red Squadron was disbanded and re-formed as Rogue Squadron. This comprised the very best Rebel pilots and, rather than having a set military function, they were given a roving mission profile. They were to be a rapid-response unit, capable of taking on dangerous jobs, as and when they emerged.

Over the next three years the squadron, under the command of Luke Skywalker, quickly became a legend. At the Battle of Hoth, they slowed down the Imperial army just enough for the Rebel forces to escape. They also went on to fight at Gall and then at the decisive Battle of Endor, when Wedge fired one of the torpedoes responsible for bringing down the second Death Star.

After Hoth, and with Luke Skywalker's increasing preoccupation with his Jedi studies, Wedge's ability and experience made him the obvious choice to become the next commander of Rogue Squadron. It was a position that he relished, and one that he was to retain for over a decade.

The role was not a peaceful one. Just days after Endor, Wedge was leading the remains of his squadron in the conflict with the Ssi-ruuk.



'I WOULD PREFER IT IF YOU DID NOT SHOW ANY RESISTANCE.  
I HAVE WAYS OF ENFORCING MY PREFERENCES'

27 ABY BOU9

# 4-LOM

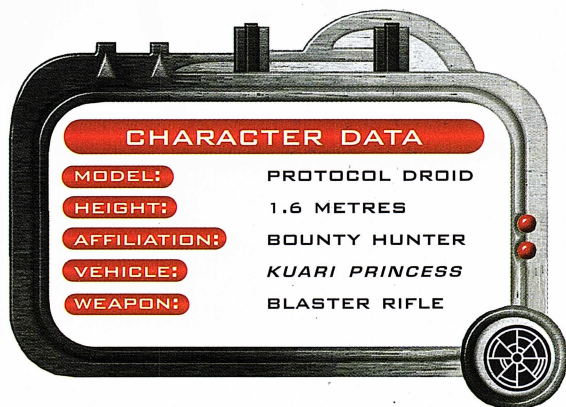
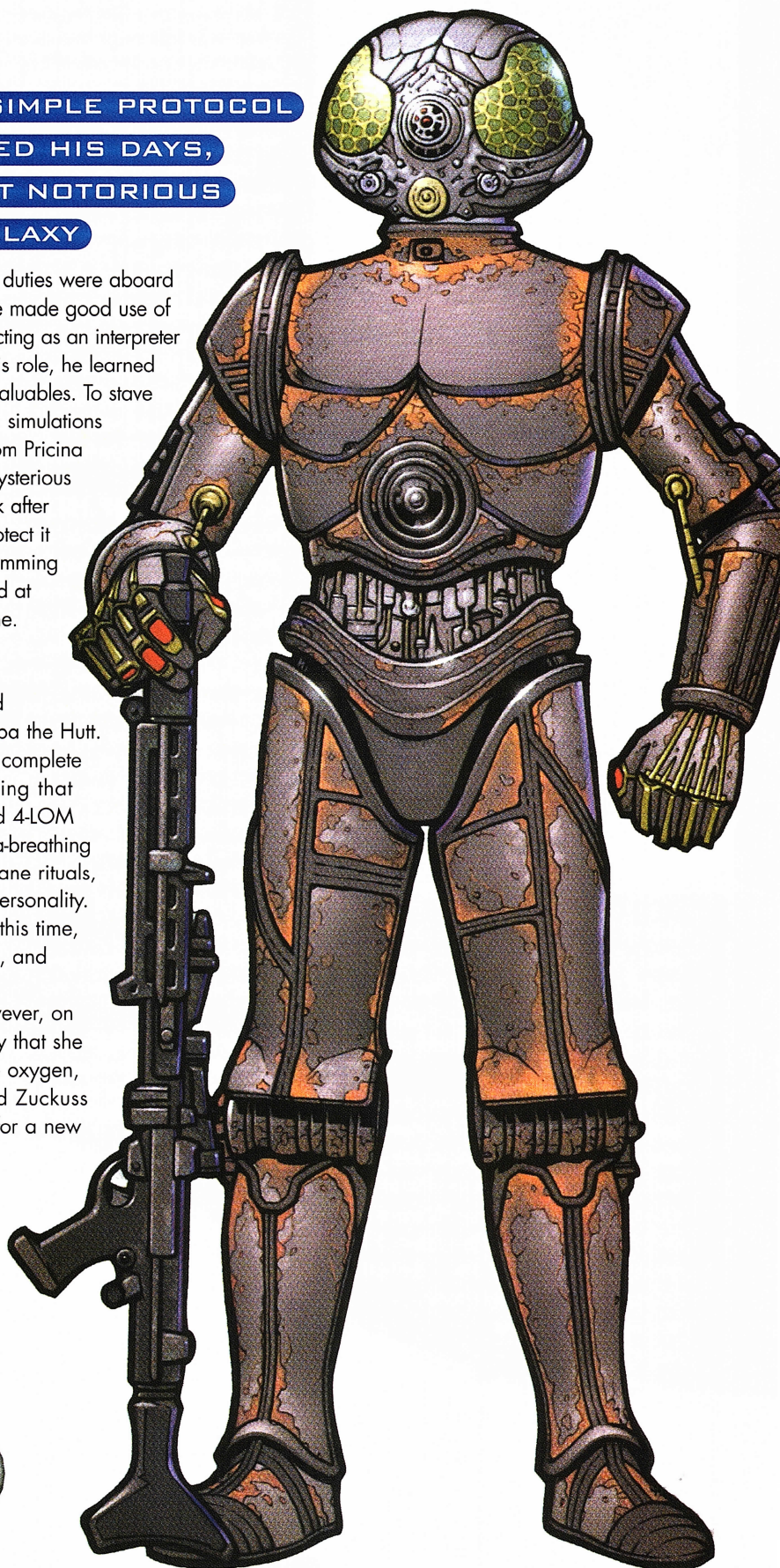
ALTHOUGH HE BEGAN AS A SIMPLE PROTOCOL  
DROID, BY THE TIME HE ENDED HIS DAYS,  
4-LOM WAS AMONG THE MOST NOTORIOUS  
BOUNTY HUNTERS IN THE GALAXY

**A**T the beginning of his existence, 4-LOM's first duties were aboard the luxury space liner *Kuari Princess*, where he made good use of his knowledge of seven million languages by acting as an interpreter between the rich patrons and the ship's computer. In this role, he learned all there was to know about the passengers and their valuables. To stave off boredom, he and the ship's computers began to run simulations of the perfect crime. Shortly afterwards, the wealthy Dom Pricina brought the Antares sapphire – a valuable gem with mysterious healing properties – aboard the ship. She failed to look after it properly, so 4-LOM stole it, originally intending to protect it from her carelessness. But the theft opened new programming routes in the droid, and when the *Kuari Princess* docked at Darlyn Boda, 4-LOM left the ship to begin a life of crime.

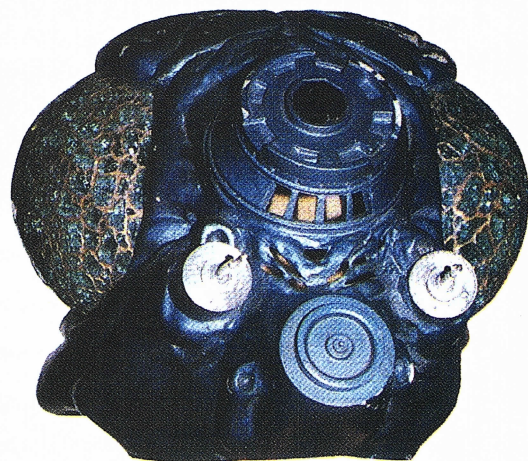
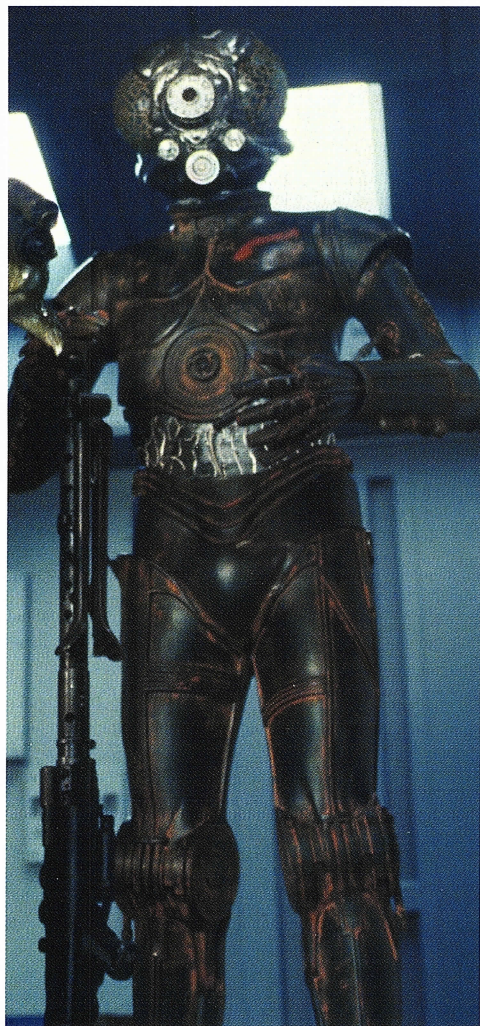
## A MASTER THIEF

The droid's activities as an accomplished thief and information-broker brought him to the attention of Jabba the Hutt. 4-LOM went to work for the crime lord in return for a complete refit which broke the prohibitions in his programming that stopped him committing violent actions. Jabba teamed 4-LOM up with Zuckuss – a Gand bounty hunter. The ammonia-breathing insectoid alien depended heavily on intuition and arcane rituals, which perfectly complemented 4-LOM's emotionless personality. The pair were soon Jabba's favourite hunters. During this time, 4-LOM became obsessed with understanding intuition, and studied Zuckuss while the bounty hunter meditated.

The pair completed many missions for Jabba. However, on one of them a female acquisition struggled so violently that she pulled off Zuckuss's face mask, forcing him to breathe oxygen, which burned out his lungs. As a result, 4-LOM and Zuckuss started taking additional bounties on the side to pay for a new







**<> SYSTEM GLITCH:** 4-LOM began his career as a thief on board the *Kuari Princess*, and later persuaded Jabba the Hutt to allow him a complete refit that overrode many of the prohibitions in his original programming. The debate still rages as to what caused 4-LOM's initial programming glitch.

with the Empire, helped to destroy it.

Some of the Rebels managed to escape the ship, but were stranded on Hoth. The bounty hunters schemed to capture them, but Zuckuss was so impressed by the Rebels that he and 4-LOM ended up helping them instead. They took the survivors to Darlyn Boda, where 4-LOM discovered that the sapphire had never been sold. He reclaimed it and used it to help Zuckuss to heal his lungs.

### A CHANGE OF HEART

Now part of the Alliance Special Forces, 4-LOM and Zuckuss attempted to recover Han Solo's frozen body from Boba Fett. The mission went disastrously wrong, and the pair were captured. Fett shot 4-LOM through the head. When Fett finally arrived on Tatooine, he used 4-LOM and Zuckuss to stand in for Solo and himself. He sent them outside to draw off any last-minute attacks by Jabba's minions, who might have sought to steal Solo's body and claim the reward for themselves.

Later, Zuckuss managed to get 4-LOM repaired, but

the droid's brain was so badly damaged that it could not be reactivated without a complete memory wipe. Indeed, the droid's personality was totally destroyed and he no longer felt he needed a partner. However, he did work with Zuckuss one last time, when they teamed up to capture Drawmas Sma'Da.

pair of lungs for the Gand. One of their missions was to capture the Imperial Sector Governor Nardix. The hunt was successful, but 4-LOM and Zuckuss ended up with Imperial death warrants on their heads.

When Darth Vader issued a call for bounty hunters to search for Han Solo after the Battle of Hoth, Jabba sent 4-LOM and Zuckuss along as unofficial emissaries to the Empire. However, as they entered the Hoth system, they intercepted the *Bright Star* – the last ship to leave the ice planet – and, hoping to repair their relationship

**> I CAN STILL DEFEAT YOU:** The beginning of the end for 4-LOM came when he was shot through the head by Boba Fett during an abortive attempt to steal Han Solo's frozen body. Following that incident, the droid had to undergo a complete memory-wipe.





'MY ASSASSINATION PROGRAMMING HAS BEEN ERASED  
AND, AS YOU CAN SEE, MY WEAPONS ARE GONE'

27 ABY ASS7



# E522 ASSASSIN DROID

SIENAR INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS



LONG AFTER THEY WERE PROHIBITED FROM USE  
ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY, ASSASSIN DROIDS  
LINGERED IN THE FORM OF THE DEADLY E522

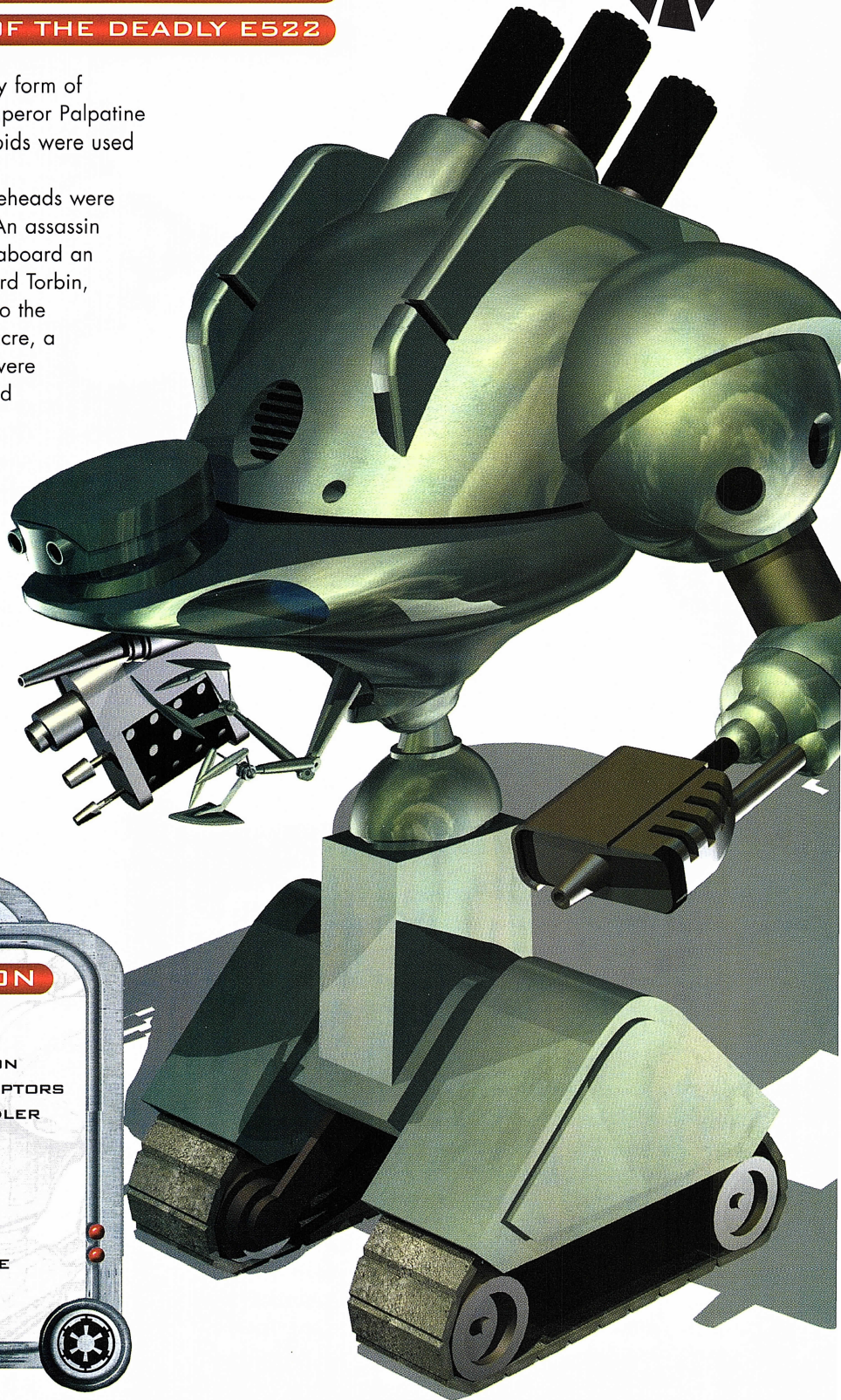
**T**HE construction, sale, or use of any form of assassin droid was outlawed by Emperor Palpatine in an Imperial decree after such droids were used against the Empire.

On at least two occasions, Imperial figureheads were targeted by the owners of assassin droids. An assassin droid was believed to have killed the crew aboard an Imperial shuttle carrying Grand Inquisitor Lord Torbin, the shuttle disintegrating when it crashed into the Imperial Palace. During the Caprioril Massacre, a staggering 20,000 swoop race spectators were murdered by an assassin droid that reasoned the best way to kill Imperial Governor Amel Bakli was to kill the whole crowd.

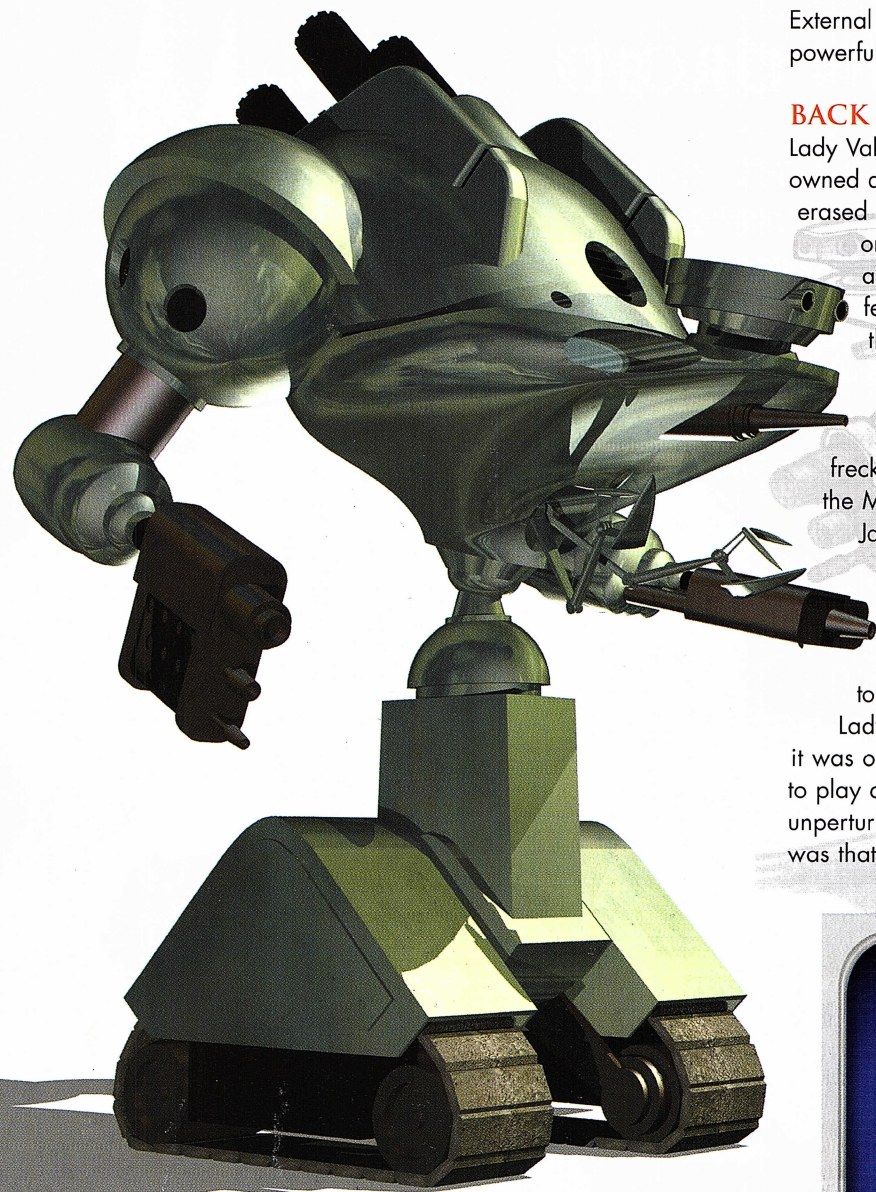
## A SECRET CONTRACT

While the decree put all manufacturers of such droids out of business, the Empire broke its own law when it ordered a classified number of E522 assassin droids. Sienar Intelligence Systems won the lucrative commission and began work on the weapons-laden E522.

The purpose of the secret project, Emperor Palpatine decided, was to silence all the critics of his New Order. The method of silencing was countless rounds of







deadly blaster fire after weeks or even months of tracking.

Using a pair of caterpillar tracks for traction, the droid had a narrow waist, bulging shoulders and a squared-off head. The droid's internal power plant, which afforded amazing strength to its limbs, was protected by heavy armour.

### HEAT-SENSORS

It's flat head was well designed, providing a small target area for would-be attackers. The head itself contained a sophisticated sensor package designed to pick up residual heat signatures. A pair of high-intensity spotlights mounted on either side of the head could be used to disorientate the target with blinding flashes.

The weapons on an E522 were more than formidable. The right arm was fitted with a neurological needle to paralyze its prey, an ion cannon to penetrate personal shielding, and a heavy repeating blaster cannon. The left

arm was equipped with a hunter-seeker projectile cannon. External power cells were necessary to keep the droid's powerful weapons charged to maximum efficiency.

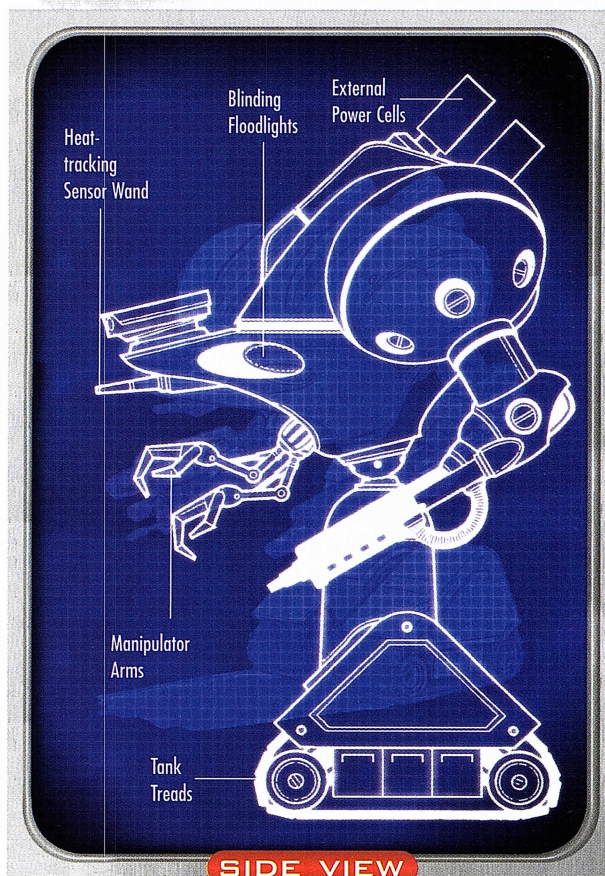
### BACK FROM THE DEAD

Lady Valarian, a rival of Tatooine crime lord Jabba the Hutt, owned an E522 that had had its assassination programming erased and its weapons removed. The vintage droid had once belonged to Jabba but, one quiet Tatooine afternoon, all the crime lord could think about was feeding somebody to the pet rancor who lived in the dungeons beneath his palace.

Bith musician Figrin Da'n, leader of the Modal Nodes, was quickly accused by one of Jabba's sail-barge attendants of eating from Jabba's tank of live freckled toads. But the E522 came up with an alibi for the Mos Eisley musician and saved his life.

Jabba ordered the luckless droid coated in meat juice and had it thrown to the hungry rancor. After being chewed and spat out by the beast, the droid was fit only for the scrap heap. Nonetheless, the E522 was salvaged and repaired by Jawas, who sold it to Lady Valarian. She put the droid to work as a courier.

Lady Valarian's E522 encountered D'an again when it was ordered to deliver an invitation for the Modal Nodes to play at Lady Valarian's wedding. Da'n was relatively unperturbed – his own attitude towards assassin droids was that you should never worry about one you can see.



SIDE VIEW



'WHO COULD HAVE ERASED INFORMATION FROM THE ARCHIVES?'

22 BBY KEN 13

# OPENING INVESTIGATIONS

INSTRUCTED TO LOOK INTO THE ATTEMPTS ON

AMIDALA'S LIFE, OBI-WAN MADE SOME ENQUIRIES

THAT TURNED OUT TO BE EXCEEDINGLY DISTURBING



**T**RAVELLING back from Coo'town and his visit to Dex's Diner, Obi-Wan Kenobi rolled the name Kamino around his tongue. It was on Kamino that Jettster said the sabredart had originated – the sabredart that had been shot, the night before, by an enigmatic rocket man.

Kamino was located in the Outer Rim, some 12 parsecs south of the Rishi Maze. Dex had, of course, given Obi-Wan some background on the Kaminoans, but he needed to find out more about them, together with the exact location of the planet, before he travelled there himself. With this in mind, he headed for the Jedi Archives

**ACORUSCANT AND BEYOND:** Obi-Wan's investigations into the identity of Senator Amidala's would-be killer began in a Coruscant diner and sent him on a journey that took him beyond the Jedi Archives to the distant reaches of the galaxy.

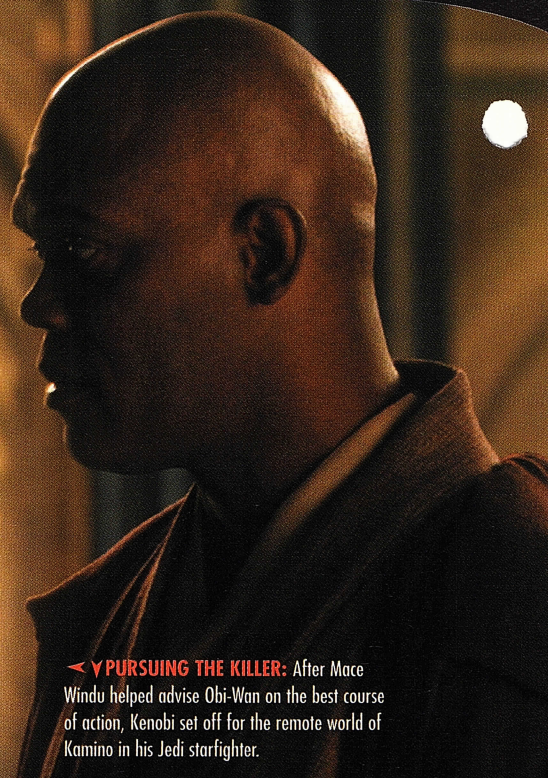
– one of the greatest repositories of knowledge in the galaxy.

## THE MASTER'S HAND

Unable to find any information on the planet through his own research, Obi-Wan waited for the arrival of head-archivist Jocasta Nu. In the meantime, he stood and contemplated a bust of Count Dooku, leader of the separatist movement.

Obi-Wan had never really known Dooku, although he was aware that the Count had been Qui-Gon Jinn's Master, and he realized that there were many similarities between the two men. Both had a strange intensity





**< PURSUING THE KILLER:** After Mace Windu helped advise Obi-Wan on the best course of action, Kenobi set off for the remote world of Kamino in his Jedi starfighter.

that had often brought them into conflict with the Jedi High Council. However, whereas Qui-Gon had kept this aspect of his personality under control and used it for his own benefit, Dooku had always been on the go, always spearheading a new crusade. He had been – Obi-Wan thought – an exhausting individual.

### INTO THE ARCHIVES

Ever since Obi-Wan could remember, Jocasta Nu had been the public face of the Jedi Archives. Once a member of the Jedi Council, she was – by turns – respected, feared and admired, and, despite his considerable experience, Obi-Wan remained somewhat in awe of her. Upon hearing his query, Jocasta undertook a search for the planet. However, upon its completion she declared that the planet did not exist.

Obi-Wan was confused – two impeccable sources of information were contradicting one another. For some time he sat and tried to meditate on his dilemma, but was unable to focus. His thoughts were interrupted by images of Anakin and Padmé and he couldn't help but wonder whether these images were premonitions of an even greater danger.

Still confused, he approached Master Yoda for advice. The diminutive Jedi turned to a group of young apprentices to consider Obi-Wan's question. Their answer came almost immediately – the Archives had been tampered with. The conclusion was perfectly logical, but also hugely disturbing. The Archives formed part of the bedrock of Jedi knowledge and wisdom – if they were fallible, the entire Jedi Order was undermined.

### DISTURBANCE

As he approached his starfighter to undertake the journey to Kamino, Obi-Wan was joined by Mace Windu. He was there to wish Obi-Wan well, but also to warn that the disturbance in the Force was getting stronger. The news only underlined Obi-Wan's consternation.

As their conversation continued, Obi-Wan expressed his concern – for the second time in as many days – about Anakin's mission to protect Padmé. And nor was this the first time



he had voiced his unease to the Jedi Council over one of Anakin's missions. Six years earlier, Obi-Wan and Anakin had been sent on a mission involving a pirate captain called Krayn, a notorious slave trader. That time, as this, Obi-Wan felt that Anakin was too emotionally involved (he had been, after all, a slave), but he was forced into a humiliating climb-down when his anxieties were expressed to the Council.

This time his concerns were addressed more gently. Windu urged Kenobi to have faith that Anakin would take the right path. Although he nodded in agreement, Obi-Wan still had his doubts about the young Padawan.



"I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MEET THIS JANGO FETT"

22 BBY KEN15

# THE MYSTERY DEEPENS

AS OBI-WAN ARRIVED IN THE KAMINO SYSTEM IN SEARCH OF THE MYSTERIOUS ROCKET MAN, LITTLE DID HE KNOW JUST WHERE HIS INVESTIGATION WAS ABOUT TO TAKE HIM

**E**XITING hyperspace at the co-ordinates he had identified on Coruscant, Obi-Wan discovered that Kamino did indeed exist. However, he wasn't given much opportunity for sightseeing. Almost as soon as he emerged into realspace, he was directed to a landing platform in the capital city of Tipoca.

Descending through the atmosphere, Obi-Wan discovered that Kamino was a watery world, with heavy storms constantly driving rain across its surface. The Kaminoan cities were the only structures to stand above the all-encompassing oceans.

## AN UNEXPECTED WELCOME

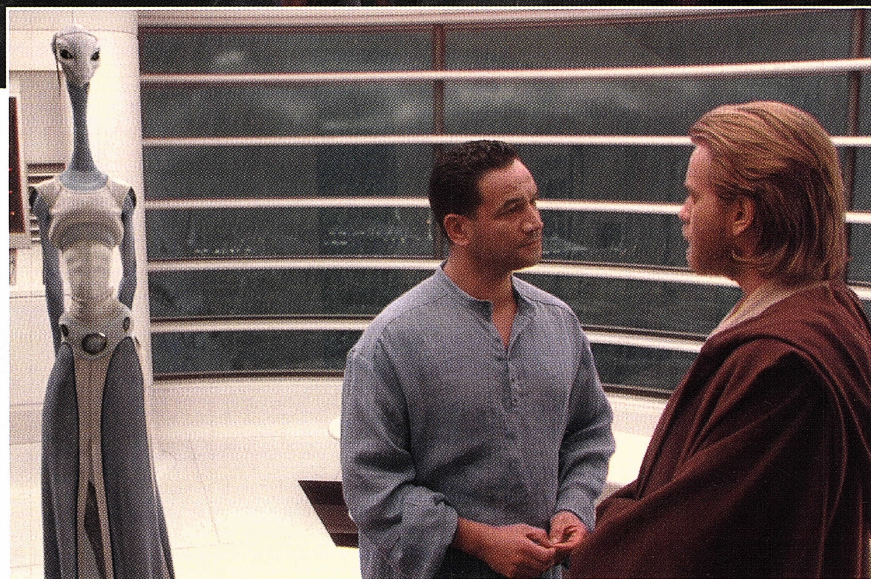
Dexter Jettster had told Obi-Wan that the Kaminoans' friendliness depended on how good one's manners were and how big one's pocketbook is. As he brought his ship in for landing, Obi-Wan wondered what sort of reception he was likely to get. He was a little bewildered when he was greeted as though his visit was not only anticipated, but long overdue.

It was only Obi-Wan's finely honed skills of diplomacy that enabled him to get to grips with the situation he was suddenly being presented with. Sitting in the office of the Kaminoan Prime Minister, Lama Su, he began to learn about the existence of a clone army developed specifically for the use of the Republic.

According to Lama Su, the order had been placed by a Jedi called Sifo-Dyas, some ten years earlier. Reflecting quickly, Obi-Wan remembered the name – Sifo-Dyas had been a powerful Jedi who had met an untimely death at about that time.







**A MASTER JEDI, SO GOOD TO SEE YOU:** When he arrived on Kamino to investigate the mysterious rocket man who had killed Zam Wesell, Obi-Wan was mistaken for an envoy of the Old Republic come to inspect progress on the creation of the Clone Army.

**<DO YOU LIKE YOUR ARMY?:** Introduced to Jango Fett by the Kaminoan Tawni We, Obi-Wan did his best to maintain the air of an envoy. Fett, however, seemed suspicious of the Jedi.

directly, Obi-Wan asked Lama Su if he could meet him.

When Obi-Wan arrived at Fett's apartment, the door was answered by the bounty hunter's son, Boba. As the ten-year-old boy called out to his father, it struck Obi-Wan that there was something oddly domesticated about this bounty hunter's living arrangements.

The ensuing conversation was difficult, but from it Obi-Wan observed a discrepancy between the Kaminoans' version of events and Jango Fett's. For example, Fett said he had never heard of Sifo-Dyas. Rather, he had been employed by a man called Tyranus. As the discussion continued, Obi-Wan spotted some armour sitting in the corner of the room, similar to that worn by the rocket man on Coruscant. His suspicion that Fett was the killer seemed to be correct.

Obi-Wan was unsure whether this was a coincidence – he had no idea where Sifo-Dyas could have got the money or resources to even begin to make a down-payment on this army.

### WEB OF SUSPICION

It was quickly becoming obvious that Obi-Wan was getting caught up in something far bigger than a simple assassination attempt.

As Lama Su took him on a tour of the cloning facilities, Obi-Wan felt the first stirrings of revulsion. Life – the very well-

spring of the Force – was being manipulated, manufactured even, with the sole aim of creating an army that would be used for killing and death. The thought of what the Kaminoans were doing was nauseating, while the way they talked about 'units' and the 'final product' was cold, clinical and deeply dehumanizing.

As the tour continued, Obi-Wan learned that the template for the army – a bounty hunter called Jango Fett – actually lived on Tipoca. Taking care not to pursue his enquiries too

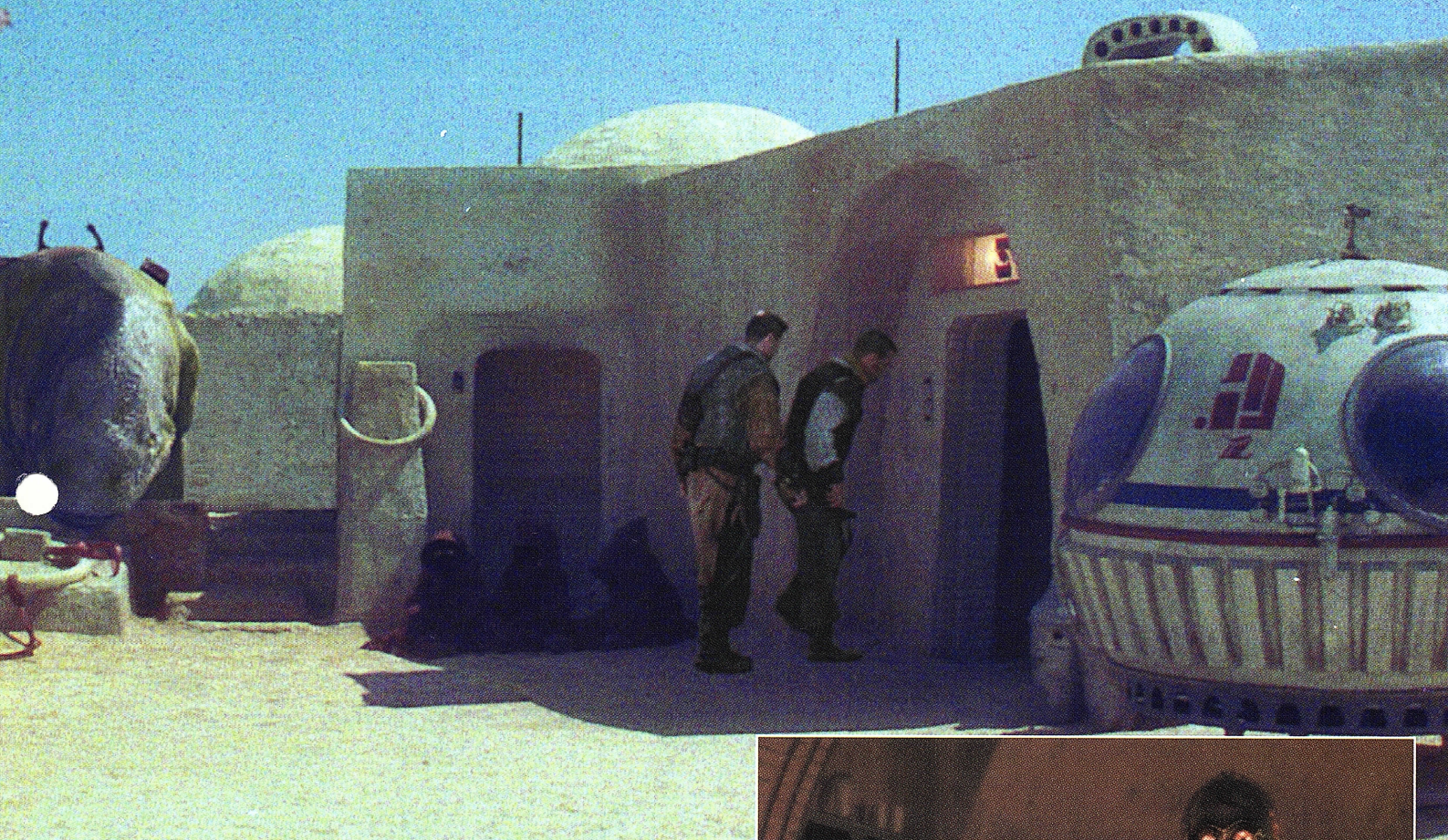


'CAN'T WE GO TO THE CANTINA TODAY? SPACERS GO THERE...'

O ABY TAT25

# MOS EISLEY CANTINA

IN THE OLD TOWN OF TATOOINE'S MOST NOTORIOUS SPACEPORT IS A NONDESCRIPT BUILDING KNOWN AS CHALMUN'S CANTINA

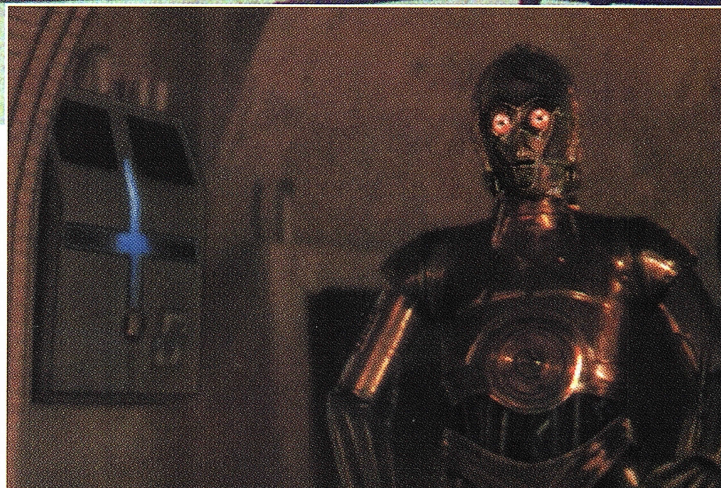


ONE of the first buildings built in what became Mos Eisley, the cantina's low, domed structure was originally designed to shelter the colonists from attacks by Tusken Raiders. It was even an armoury for a while, though the Tusken attacks never came. As the settlement grew, the armoury was moved and the building was put up for sale. Over many decades, the sturdy construction had many owners and many uses before it finally became a bar.

The most famous proprietor of the cantina was the Wookiee Chalmun. He managed to con it off a trio of Gran, and the bar became 'Chalmun's

## A > WE DON'T SERVE THEIR KIND HERE:

Chalmun's Cantina in Mos Eisley was open to the worst elements of galactic society, but droids were forbidden. Indeed, so averse was the cantina's owner to droids, that detectors had been installed at the entrances to notify staff when any non-organic beings entered the bar.



Cantina'. The Wookiee was rarely seen, preferring to stay in his office behind the curtain at the end of the bar. When Chalmun did venture out,

he was frequently mistaken for the venue's bouncer.

There were never many rules applied to the Cantina's clientele, Mos



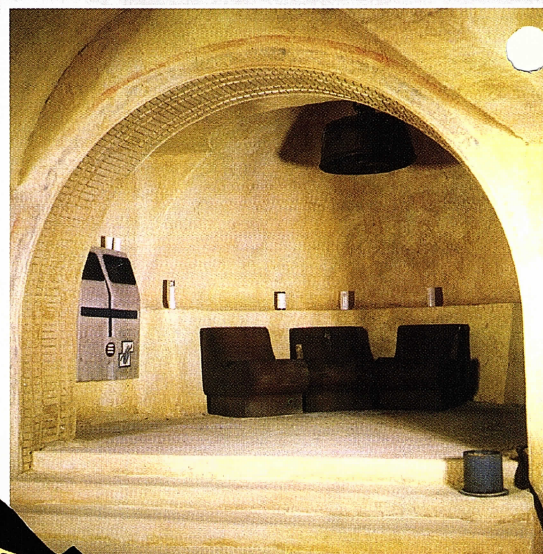
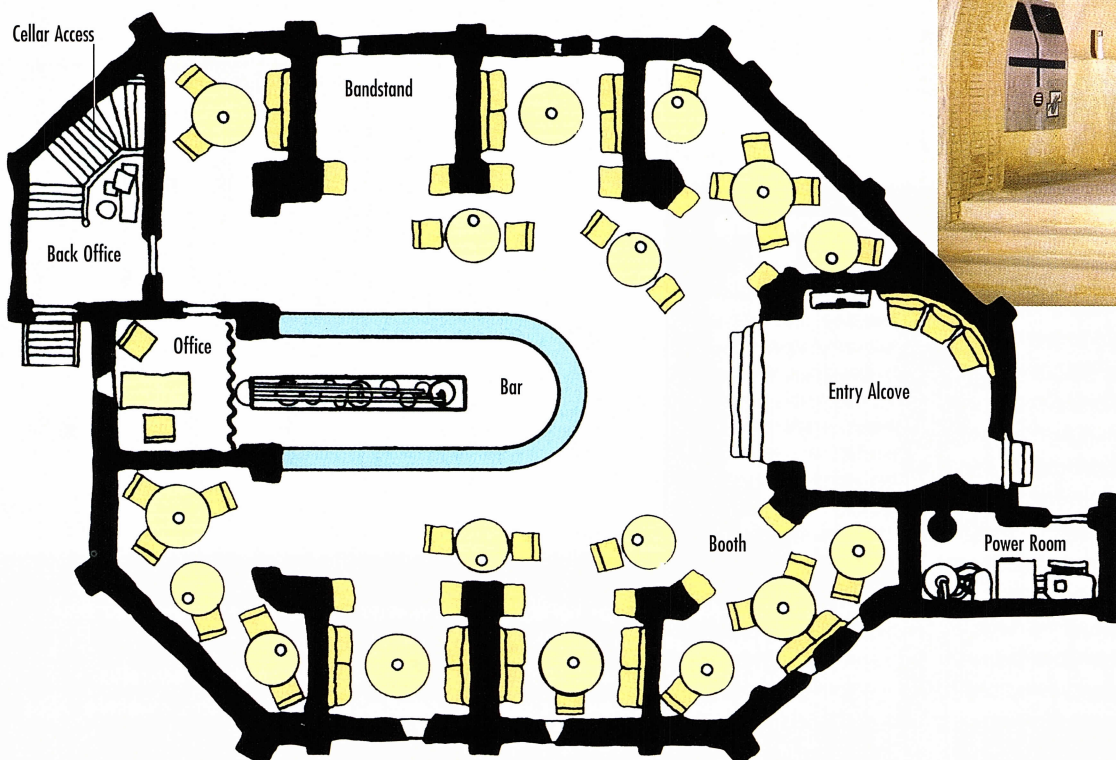


Eisley itself never being known for sticking to the letter or spirit of anybody's law. During Chalmun's time, there were only two rules – no blasters and no droids. Chalmun despised droids, and blaster fights drove away customers and brought in the local authorities. The Wookiee had a detector installed that sounded when a droid wandered in. If it was an Imperial droid, customers were given due time to change their

conversations accordingly. If it wasn't, the droid in question was sent packing.

Chalmun never got a gambling licence, but there were always games going on at one table or another, or in one of the shadowy booths. In the main, though, the cantina was a place for clandestine meetings and for planning dark deeds in hushed voices. No matter who the owner has been, that much about the cantina has never changed.

**A YLISTEN TO THE BAND:** Innumerable species from across the galaxy were attracted to the seedy atmosphere of Chalmun's Cantina. While some came simply to relax and listen to Figrin D'an's Modal Nodes, who played on a small bandstand in a corner of the building, others were involved in more nefarious activities.



#### < A SAFE HAVEN:

A floorplan of Chalmun's Cantina illustrates how the seating arrangements, given over mostly to private booths, were ideally suited to the needs of its often secretive clientele.



'BE CAREFUL! DON'T PASS NEAR JABBA'S PLEASURE DENS!'

27 ABY TAT33



# MOS ESPA WAY

MOS ESPA WAY WAS THE MAIN STREET THAT WOUND THROUGH THE BUSTLING TATOOINE SETTLEMENT

**T**HE broad thoroughfare snaked through the ever-expanding town of Mos Espa. Despite its width, the way always seemed to be congested and cramped. In its heyday, Mos Espa was constantly bustling with sentients, vehicles, beasts of burden and droids, at all hours of the day or night.

Mos Espa Way was the meeting point for the merchant district and the entertainment district. As such, it was the main focus for both areas, as well as being the centre of what passed for the tourist trade in the town. Sprawling shop front displays, dealer forecourts and stalls great and small further constricted the street, which was already choked with traffic.

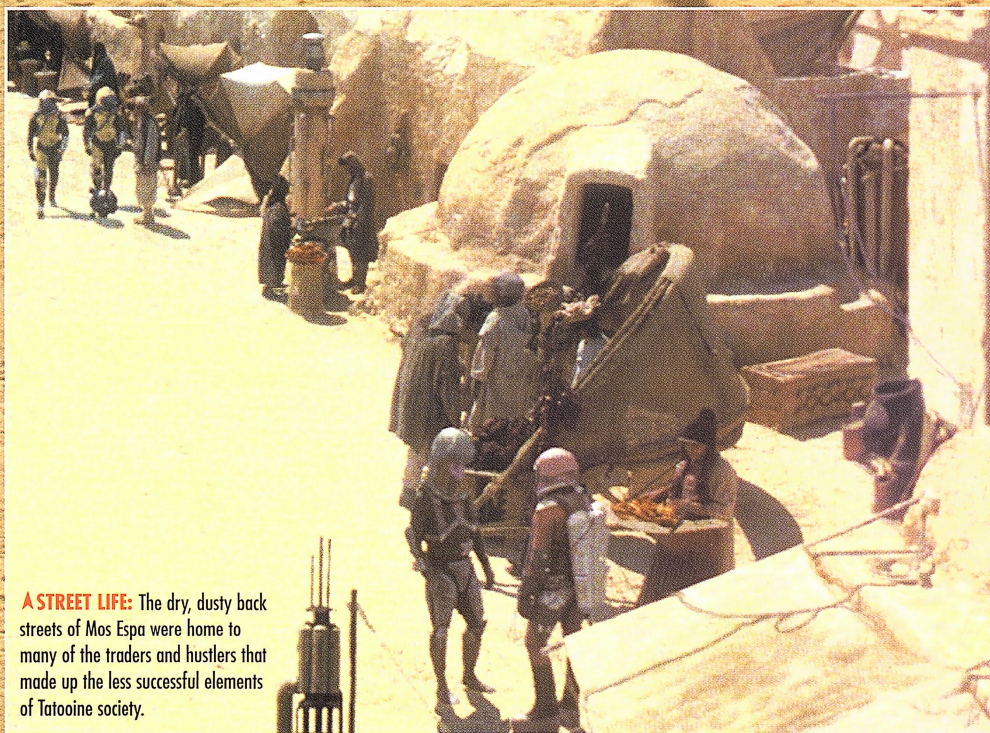
Over a dozen docking bays sat right on Mos Espa Way, and the roar of arriving and departing spacecraft was almost constant, particularly before a big event such as a Podrace. Goods being imported or exported were collected by transports that could snarl up the thoroughfare for quite a time – allowing for the surreptitious removal or insertion of various items.

The Hutt's Jabba and Gardulla both had town houses that were accessed

from Mos Espa Way, though Jabba's was by far the most impressive. At the opposite end of the way from Jabba's dwelling, near the outskirts of town, sat Watto's junk shop, its location ideal for bringing in newly arriving visitors to Mos Espa.

## GOODS FOR SALE

Along Mos Espa Way, a shopper could pick up anything from a used landspeeder to a cooling glass of water (with the latter occasionally costing more than the former). But shopping could be



**ASTREET LIFE:** The dry, dusty back streets of Mos Espa were home to many of the traders and hustlers that made up the less successful elements of Tatooine society.



TAT34 27 ABY



a treacherous business on Mos Espa Way – it was always worth checking the goods before buying. Gagra the gorgmonger claimed to keep her stock in a pool in the basement of the tapcafé adjoining her stall. In fact, she grew her edible amphibians in the Mos Espa sewer system. Of course, a truly unwary shopper would more than likely wander into the wrong premises – a front for a weapons trader perhaps – and never be seen again, save by the slave master who eventually bought them.

### SHELTER FROM THE STORM

One thing all shops on Mos Espa Way had in common, be they solid structure or fragile-looking hut, was their covers. These were brought down when Mos Espa was scoured by one of the many sandstorms that swept down from the surrounding desert. In addition, some stalls could be carried off the street into



a building for shelter, while some of the fabric trader huts could be folded forward and pinned to the ground. Once a storm had passed, the trader would roll back the front of the hut and emerge, blinking, back into the light, ready to trade again.

Unfortunately, maintenance was not always a struggling trader's first priority. With heat a constant problem on Tatooine, virtually all traders had some form of cooling unit to keep their wares

**BURNING SAND:** With its hot, dusty streets and spartan appearance, the humble district of Mos Espa seemed a truly inhospitable and barren territory to casual visitors such as Qui-Gon Jinn, Jar Jar Binks and Padmé Amidala.

from spoiling or melting. Once the cooler went, it wasn't long before the trader in question dried up and blew away in the next sandstorm. Of course, functional cooler or no, failing to check the anchoring tethers and pins of a hut before the next storm could lead to the same result.



"HAVE YOU EVER ENCOUNTERED A JEDI KNIGHT BEFORE, SIR?"

32 BBY LIG7

# QUI-GON JINN'S LIGHTSABRE

THE LIGHTSABRE DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED BY

QUI-GON JINN OFTEN SAVED THE WISE JEDI MASTER'S LIFE

**L**IKE thousands of Jedi across the galaxy, Qui-Gon Jinn would have felt naked when his lightsabre was not within easy reach. In a series of missions years before the Battle of Naboo, Qui-Gon was forced to use his lightsabre in the same way as other Jedi – for defence mainly against blaster bolts. But there were occasions when Qui-Gon had to resort to duelling the wielders of other lightsabres both in his training, and after becoming a Jedi Master.

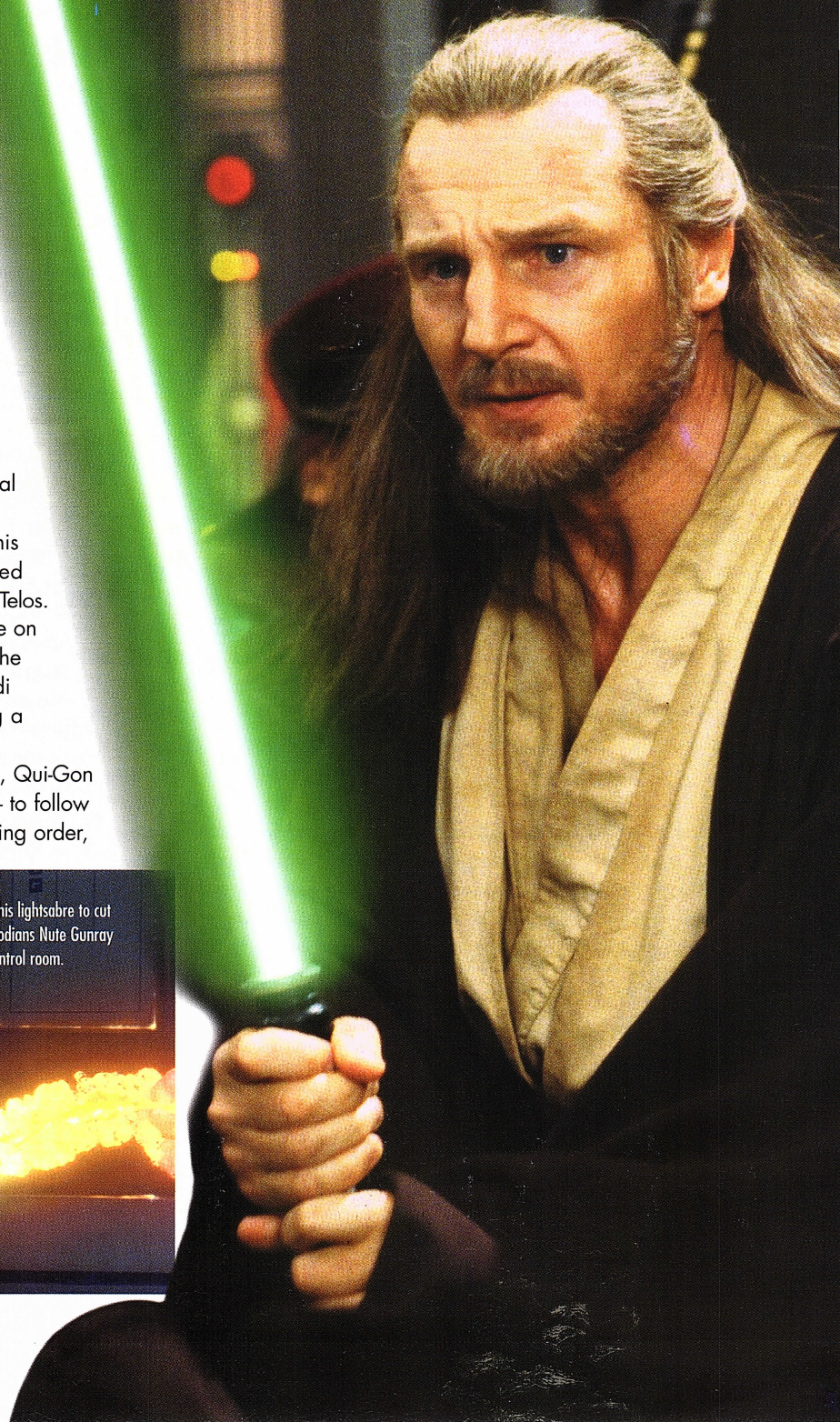
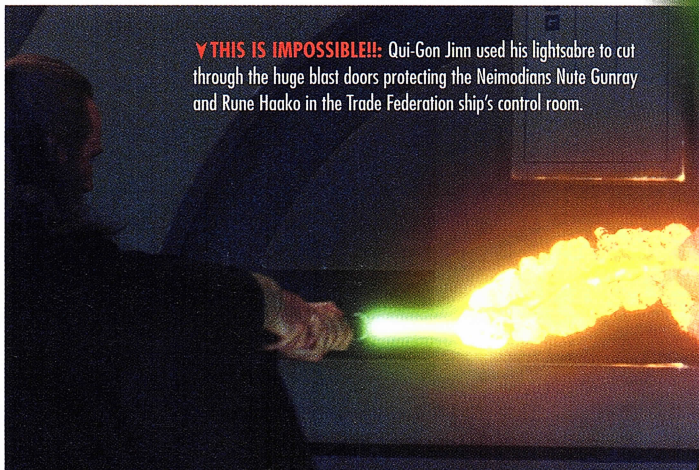
## SIMULATED COMBAT

Since lightsabres are never successfully handled by those outside the Jedi Order, its members often only engaged in lightsabre duels as part of classical training – the unusual weapons rarely clashed in real combat. That all changed for Qui-Gon when his second apprentice, the Telosian Xanatos, rebelled against his former Master during a civil uprising on Telos.

As well as using his lightsabre to cut through ice on at least one occasion, in the events leading up to the invasion of Naboo by the Trade Federation the Jedi Master found his lightsabre invaluable in evading a gairk while under water.

During the Trade Federation invasion of Naboo, Qui-Gon reminded Obi-Wan Kenobi – his final apprentice – to follow his example and keep his lightsabre in good working order,

**Y THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!!!** Qui-Gon Jinn used his lightsabre to cut through the huge blast doors protecting the Neimodians Nute Gunray and Rune Haako in the Trade Federation ship's control room.







**< A DUEL:** Qui-Gon was forced to duel with the Sith Lord, Darth Maul, when the Dark Jedi attacked him on Tatooine. Only Qui-Gon's lightsaber skills saved him from being killed at that moment. But he was not quick enough to prevent Maul from dispatching him on Naboo soon afterwards.

especially after Kenobi's was fried in the swamps of the besieged planet. Qui-Gon's advice was proved sensible when the pair had boarded a Trade Federation vessel as ambassadors for the Supreme Chancellor, and used their lightsabres to deflect the blaster bolts fired by the droidekas aboard the ship, as well as to cut through the ship's heavy blast doors.

## CONSTRUCTION

The workshops at the Jedi Temple on Coruscant supplied exquisite materials and tools to be used by Jedi initiates in constructing their own lightsabres. The ability of a young

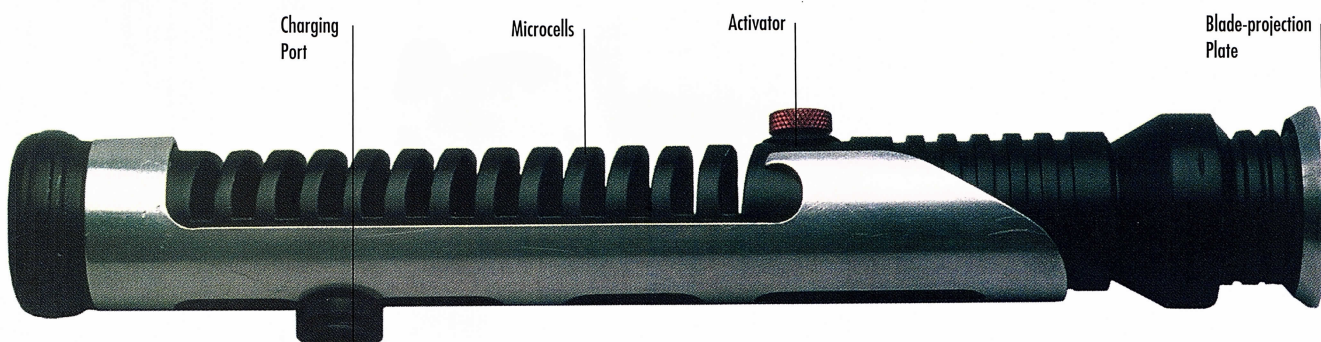
Jedi to construct his or her weapon, which was no mean feat, proved they had an affinity with the Force.

Qui-Gon Jinn's lightsaber, which was used for a multitude of purposes over many years, was constructed by the Jedi Master using a common, though highly elaborate, internal design that differed in several key respects from the simpler lightsabres of the Jedi who built their weapons away from the Temple. Their lightsabres, like the one built on Tatooine by Luke Skywalker, typically had a single power cell, while Qui-Gon's boasted multiple ones. These cells

were stored within the scalloped handgrip of the weapon.

The nature of the green energy blade emitted by Qui-Gon's lightsaber's hilt was controlled by a series of microcircuits within the device. The blade, which was capable of cutting through almost any form of material, was activated using a switch a third of the way down the hilt. When it was triggered, the power channelled through a positively charged energy lens at the centre of the handle before the beam arced back to a negatively charged high-energy flux aperture. A superconductor transferred the power from that aperture to the power cells, resulting in the lightsaber only expending energy when its blade cut through something. The blade was then protruded from the projection plate at one end of the hilt.

The underside of the hilt was fitted with a port which, when connected to the appropriate power source, enabled Qui-Gon to charge his weapon.





"ENEMY FIGHTERS STRAIGHT AHEAD!"

32 BBY TRA2

# TRADE FEDERATION DROID STARFIGHTER

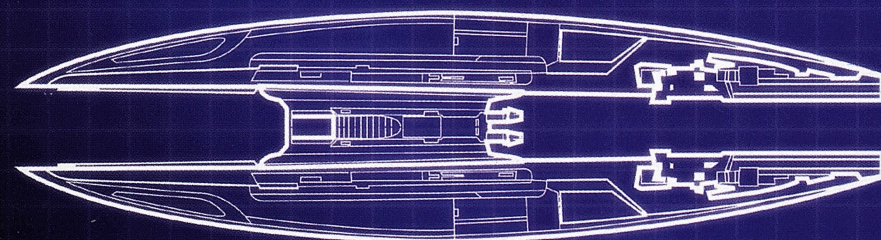
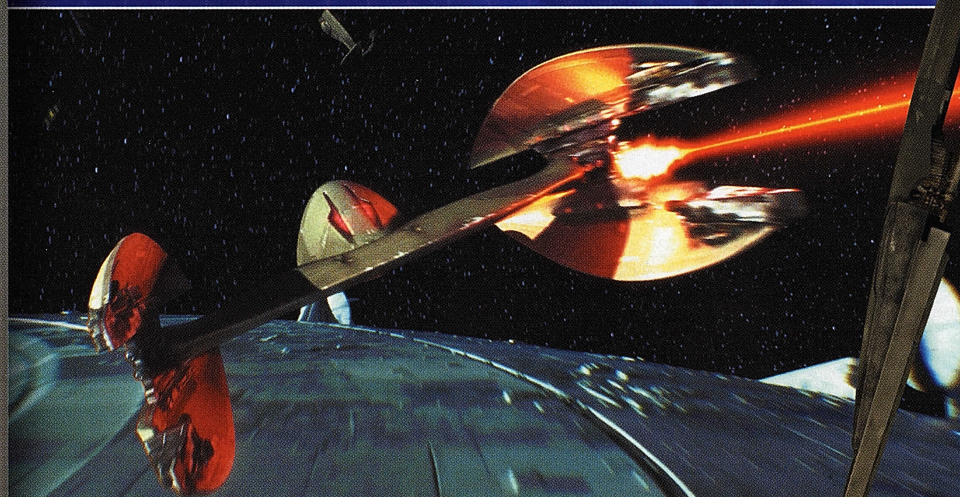
**DROID STARFIGHTERS WERE LETHAL IN BATTLE, BUT THEIR LIMITED ENERGY RESERVES MEANT THEY COULD NEVER STRAY FAR FROM HOME**

THE combat-ready droid starfighter mounted three weapons clusters arranged in a forward-firing arc. Along the leading edge of the central fuselage were two energy-torpedo launch tubes, each fed from a centralized magazine in the ventral hull. Like many parts of the ship, the torpedo racks could be quickly swapped with fully loaded replacements when the fighter docked with its carrier. The outriggers each carried a pair of fire-linked blaster cannons, although these guns were known to be fragile and often failed under lengthy combat operations. Instead of a fusion generator, non-standard solid-fuel concentrate slugs were injected into the aft fuel chamber to power the droids. The fuel blocks burnt at extremely high temperatures, liberating a tremendous energy surge – but at a cost. Typically, a droid starfighter would exhaust its fuel in less than 35 minutes, so the units were forced to deploy from carriers or base stations near to the theatre of battle. The ships were each armed with a compact but deadly self-destruct mechanism that would be triggered in the event of capture by the enemy. This device would also detonate if contact was severed with the starfighter's droid control ship for more than a few minutes.

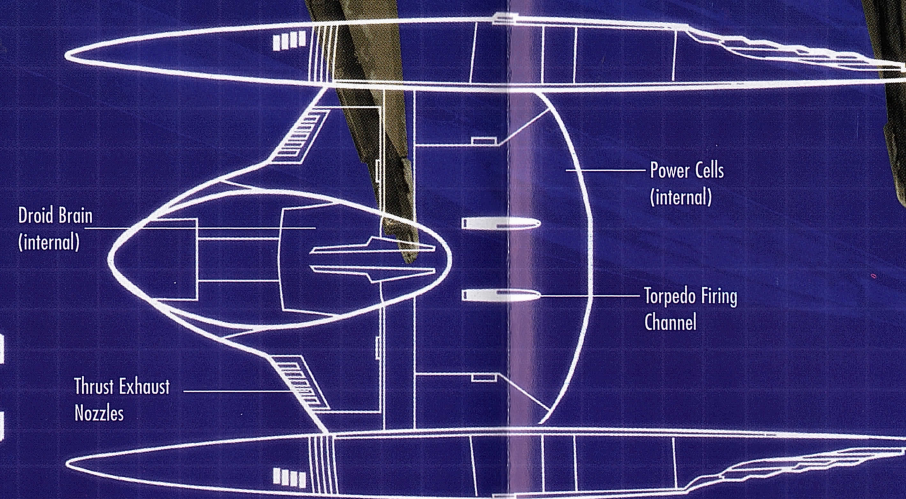
**SENSOR POD:** The 'brain' of the droid starfighter was mounted in a rounded pod on the rear of the central fuselage. In walking mode, the 'head' had a greater degree of movement, turning to bring its twin sensor 'eyes' to bear on ground targets. The rear section of the pod housed a comlink antenna for signal reception from the command ship's central computer.

**A WALKING FORM:** As well as performing in air and space combat operations, the droid starfighter could also operate in a secondary mode, reconfiguring its outriggers into 'legs'. In this configuration, the droid could operate as a ground patrol unit, although its blaster cannons could not be fired.

**SOLID FUEL THRUSTERS:** Rather than the more common use of fusion drives on most aerospace vehicles, the droid starfighters used a fuel system of solid pellets made of a densified concentrate. The solid fuel slugs, stored in an aft compartment, produced high power levels but gave the ships relatively short flight-operation times.



SIDE VIEW



TOP VIEW



VEHICLE SPECIFICATION	
TYPE:	XI' CHAR CATHEDRAL FACTORIES' DROID STARFIGHTER
LENGTH:	3.5 METRES
CREW:	NONE (DROID BRAIN)
AFFILIATION:	TRADE FEDERATION
WEAPONS:	4 BLASTER CANNONS, 2 ENERGY TORPEDO LAUNCHERS



32 BBY TRA 1



"AH, VICTORY!"

# TRADE FEDERATION DROID STARFIGHTER

AS PART OF THEIR VAST MECHANIZED ARMY, THE TRADE FEDERATION EMPLOYED SQUADRONS OF MULTI-MODE DROID STARFIGHTERS THAT COULD OPERATE IN THE AIR, IN SPACE AND ON LAND

**E**ARLY designs for the Trade Federation's droid starfighter employed standard Trade Federation battle droids as interchangeable pilots for the fighters. Eventually the combat craft evolved into a unit with a mind of its own – a true droid starfighter. Tactically, the use of droid craft has been hotly debated by military strategists for decades. Droid fighters can out-fly ships with organic pilots by making manoeuvres that would subject most life forms to punishing stresses and g-forces. They can also carry greater weapon load-outs in hull space that would otherwise be given over to life-support systems. However, a droid brain cannot duplicate the random nature and overall inventiveness of a living being in a battle situation. Despite this concern, the Trade Federation embarked on the creation of the greatest droid land and aerospace force in history, hoping to overwhelm organic enemies by sheer weight of numbers and unified tactical planning.

## OPERATIONAL MODES

The Trade Federation droid starfighter had four distinct operational modes. In its standby mode, the ship remained partly inert in its launch cradle on board a carrier vessel. Connections to a high-voltage power grid and supply umbilicals carrying fuel replenishments were attached to the ships, ready for deployment at a moment's notice. While in this state, the individual ships ran random diagnostic programs that flexed their wings or turned their sensor heads. Some observers commented that the craft resembled colonies of flying cave creatures at rest.

Flight mode was the basic setting for the droid starfighter, operating within an atmospheric envelope or in the vacuum of space. Typically, the ship would adopt this state while on patrol or at a low alert level, keeping the port and starboard hull outriggers closed, concealing and protecting the delicate mechanisms of their assault blasters.

Attack mode would be activated if enemy contact was imminent, or if the ship was ordered on to high alert.

Similar to flight mode, attack mode enabled the droid starfighter's outriggers to split open to reveal the ship's full spread of armament, ready for combat operations.

The final function was patrol mode, typically called into use once an enemy planet had been pacified:

In this state, the starfighter reconfigured itself to use the outriggers as four vertical legs, also extending the sensor pod forward on an armature. In patrol mode, the unit could walk across the ground using extended scissor-action claws on the outrigger tips, and the twin energy torpedo launcher tubes were angled downward to perform in an anti-personnel mode.

**BATTLE PLANS:** Although the limitations of the droid brain meant that the droid starfighters were, in some respects, inferior to fighters piloted by more versatile, organic beings, the Trade Federation hoped that the sheer weight of numbers they could field would ensure the fighters' success in battle.

**FLIGHT MODE:** While on patrol in space or within a planetary atmosphere, the droid starfighters operated in a passive 'flight mode', keeping the exterior surfaces of their fuselage closed. This not only protected their sensitive weapons circuitry from damage, but also concealed their primary combat systems.